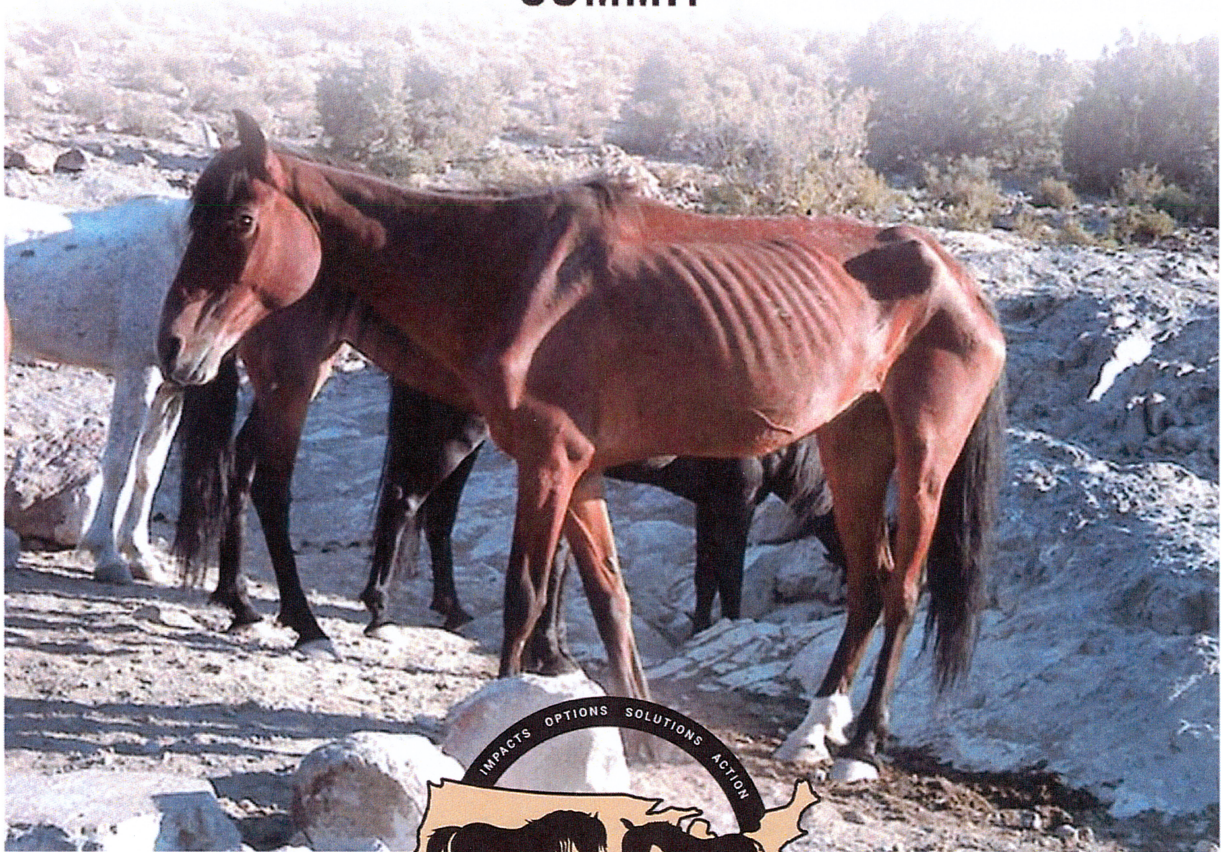


IMPACTS · OPTIONS · SOLUTIONS · ACTION

National
WILD HORSE AND BURRO
SUMMIT



— GOAL —

**Full Implementation of the
1971 Wild Horse and Burro Management Act**

August 22–24, 2017 | Salt Lake Marriott City Creek

nationalhorseandburrosummit.org

National Wild Horse and Burro Summit – Facilitated Questions Summary

Report Prepared by the National Wild Horse and Burro Summit Steering Committee

Background

The National Wild Horse and Burro Summit convened August 22-24, 2017 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The purpose of the Summit was to provide participants with updated science, policy, and management information regarding wild horse and burro management as mandated under the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act. On August 24, many attendees participated in an anonymous, live electronic voting system to answer a series of questions about who they were, their motivations for participating in the Summit, and their opinions about contemporary wild horse and burro management and proposed solutions to excess on-range and off-range populations. Over 200 people registered for the conference, of whom 156 participated in the voting. Responses per question ranged from 134 to 156. The results of the voting were provided to the participants via a projected graph immediately after each question. The voting exercise was designed to stimulate discussion and provide a visible overview of the general level of support for different proposed solutions.

Summit Voting Session Participants

Participants were allowed to identify as more than one category below. Numbers do not add to 100% as each question was asked separately. Summit participants included:

Local Government or staff	19%	Nonprofit or NGO	20%
Federal or state agency	35%	Unaffiliated private citizen	14%
National elected official or staff	3%	University-related	15%
Agricultural representative	41%	Horse and burro experts	44%
Tribal representative	4%		

- 55% represented an organization with a policy or position statement on wild horse and burro issues
- 69% planned to explore having their organization commit staff time or other resources to wild horse and burro issues beyond the current level of involvement
- Of the 90 individuals who suggested that their organizations might be able to help, most likely follow-up actions were public education/outreach (31%), lobbying/advocacy (24%), calls to action shared with members/constituents (18%), devoting staff time to coordination or committees (17%), and research (10%) [a technical difficulty limited many individuals from answering this question]
- 75% of those responding felt that a similar conference in the future would be of value

Motivations for Attending the Summit

Participants were asked whether several standard reasons for attending were their main reason, a secondary reason, or not a reason for being there. Nearly everyone attended the Summit for multiple reasons. Numbers do not add to 100% because each question was asked separately.

Top primary reasons included:

- 98 % because they care about **rangeland health** (32% secondary)
- 98 % because they care about **wildlife habitat** (56% secondary)
- 94 % because they care about **how tax dollars are spent on wild horse programs** (62% secondary)
- 89 % because they care about the **impacts of horses on local economies** (52% secondary)

Additionally, the respondents attended:

- 88% because they care about **horse health** (71% secondary)
- 92% because they care about **making sure horses are treated humanely** (79% sec.)
- 75% because they care about **competition between livestock and horses** (50% sec.)
- 63% because they care about **wild horses as part of American heritage** (55% sec.)

Perspectives on Wild Horse and Burro Management Issues

Summit participants who voted in the session were asked several questions about their level of concern about various management issues. Key responses included:

- Very high concern about the **impact of horse population numbers on rangeland resources** (99% strongly agree that this is a concern)
- Strong opposition to the current situation:
 - 97% opposed (96% “completely opposed”) to the **current, status quo situation**
 - 97% opposed **continuing to house horses in holding facilities** for the rest of their lives
- Attendees did not feel that fertility control and adoptions will be enough to manage populations and address resource concerns: 96% believe that adoptions cannot be increased enough to meet the current supply of horses and 94% believe that fertility control cannot reduce current populations enough to alleviate impacts

96% of respondents completely oppose the current status quo situation

Support for Management Options

Summit participants who voted in the session indicated their level of support for various suggestions to address horse and burro issues. (“sup” = supportive; “opp” = opposed)

Highly-supported options:

- 99% Commercial use of horses of **protein for pet food** (86% complete sup, 13% moderate sup)
- 96% Commercial use of horses of **protein for zoo animals** (78% complete sup, 18% moderate sup)
- 96% **Euthanizing unadoptable horses** for population control (81% complete sup, 15% mod. sup)
- 92% Allowing **sale without restrictions** (69% complete sup, 23% moderate sup)
- 93% **Reducing the age of “sale without restrictions”** from 10+ years old to 5+ years old (67% complete sup, 26% moderate sup)
- 92% Commercial use of horses of **protein for human consumption** (67% complete sup, 25% moderate sup)

Well-supported options:

- 89% **Permanent sterilization of mares** by spaying (71% completely sup, 18% moderately sup)
- 88% Allowing **private organizations to acquire/adopt large numbers of horses** (57% completely sup, 31% moderately sup)
- 88% Adding **additional contraceptives** as management tools (50% completely sup, 33% moderately sup)
- 87% Developing **additional adoption opportunities outside the U.S.** (58% completely sup, 29% moderately sup)

- 85% Developing **additional adoption opportunities within the U.S.** (67% completely sup, 18% moderately sup)
- 80% Creating coordination committees or **working groups at appropriate local scales** (43% completely sup, 37% moderately sup)
- 76% **Allowing individual states to manage horses** within their boundaries without federal restrictions (55% completely sup, 21% moderately sup)

Options with mixed levels of support:

- Gathering excess horses off the range and moving them to **private leased pastures** (43% sup, 43% opp)
- **Increased use of the contraceptive PZP** (63% sup, 31% opp)
- **Maintaining non-reproducing** herds in areas where population could be supplemented by outside sterile horses (60% sup, 40% uncertain or opp)
- Attempting rest-rotation **grazing systems for horses** on the range (40% sup, 60% uncertain or opp)
- **Reducing horse forage allocation limits** for horses in HMAs, effectively reducing AML (68% sup, 28% unsure or opp)
- **Adding mules to horse herds** to control herd growth via harem gathering (21% sup, 31% uncertain, 48% opp)

Options with comparatively low support:

- 98% were “completely opposed” to **allowing horses to self-regulate** on the range; no actions taken
- 94% opposed to **increasing the number (thus, total acreage) of HMAs**
- 92% opposed to **expanding the size of current HMAs**
- 75% opposed to **BLM hauling water to horses** in the same location each year
- 82% opposed to **reducing cattle AUMs in HMAs**

As noted, this information reflects only the opinions of the National Wild Horse and Burro Summit participants who participated in the voting exercise conducted on August 24, 2017. Although those voting represented a diverse cross-section of stakeholders, this information cannot be extrapolated beyond this context.

The steering committee included representatives from the following organizations and groups:

Arizona Sportsmen
Arizona Deer Association
Beaver County Commission
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
The Wildlife Society
University of Wyoming
Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office
Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts

Arizona Bass Nation
Audubon Society
Berryman Institute
Idaho Wildlife Federation
Nevada Division of Wildlife
Society for Range Management
The Bass Federation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Utah State University Extension
Western Landowners Alliance
Wyoming State Grazing Board

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